

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8803

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS USUN 3376

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, UK, FR, NH

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): UK STATEMENT ON NEW

HEBRIDES (NH)

REF: USUN 3359

1. ON AUGUST 20, UK MISSION OFFICER RICHARDSON REPLIED TO NH PETITIONERS' STATEMENTS. (REFTEL) RICHARDSON WELCOMED THE PETITIONERS, EMPHASIZED THAT THE JOINT FRENCH/UK ADMINISTRATION HAD NO OPINION ON PARTICULAR PARTIES, NOTED THE COMMON GROUND IN THE PETITIONERS' STATEMENTS. HE CONTINUED BY REITERATING BOTH THE FRENCH AND UK COMMITMENT TO THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE NH AND SAID THAT THE SECESSIONIST POLICIES OF THE NA-GRIAMEL PARTY WOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

2. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UK AND FRENCH ARE COMMITTED TO SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE NH AND TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NH. HE SAID THAT NEITHER THE UK NOR FRANCE WOULD POSE ANY
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OBSTACLE TO ANY PROPOSAL BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NH

RELATED TO SELF-DETERMINATION. RICHARDSON CONTINUED THAT THE UK VIEWS THE NATIONAL PARTY'S DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE IN 1977, COMING ONLY ONE YEAR AFTER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURE, AS UNFEASIBLE.

3. REFERRING TO THE REQUEST BY THE NATIONAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR A UN VISITING MISSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE, RICHARDSON SAID THAT IT IS THE VIEW OF THE UK THAT VISITING MISSIONS ARE MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN THERE IS "SOME DEGREE OF COMMON GROUND ON THE MAIN CURRENTS OF OPINION" WHICH IS NOT THE CASE AT THE PRESENT TIME WHERE THE SITUATION IS IN A STATE OF FLUX. HE SAID, THEREFORE, THAT THE TWO ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES COULD NOT, THEREFORE, ACQUIESCE IN A RECOMMENDATION THAT A VISITING MISSION BE DISPATCHED.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE NH WILL CONTINUE AT THE C-24'S NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY, AUGUST 23.
BENNETT

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